



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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**KDHE Creates Center for Population Health**

*by Robert Moser, MD, Secretary, KDHE*

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) issued a report in March 2012 entitled, "[Primary Care and Public Health: Exploring Integration to Improve Population Health](#)". This report looks at population health management as a culture of shared responsibility.



On June 11, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) convened a statewide conversation on impacting population health. The purpose was to discuss efforts to increase integration among primary care providers and public health entities to impact population health through enhanced relationships based on the principle that integration is the framework, not the objective. The overall goal of this type of integration is to improve health.

Following that meeting, KDHE convened seven regional listening sessions across Kansas, from June 26 to Aug. 19, in Wichita, Chanute, Garden City, Salina, Colby, Topeka and Kansas City, Kansas.

Primary care providers and public health organizations play critical roles in providing for the health and well-being of residents in local communities. Although they share a common goal, historically these sectors have operated independently of each other. New opportunities are emerging, bringing the sectors together in ways that will yield substantial and lasting improvements in the health of individuals, communities and populations.

As an outcome of these ongoing discussion, KDHE has formed the Center for Population Health within the Bureau of Community Health Systems, formally bringing together the programs of Primary Care, Rural Health and Local Public Health for identifying opportunities for collaboration, activity planning and opportunity exploration.

- Jane Shirley will direct activities for the Center, while continuing as the Director of the Local Public Health Program.
- Barbara Huske continues to serve as Director of the Primary Care Program.
- Sara Roberts continues to serve as Director of the Rural Health Program.

The KDHE Center for Population Health will work toward achieving greater synergy to improve the health of all Kansans.

**Improving Health Literacy**

*by Robert Moser, MD, Secretary, KDHE*



People make choices about their health every day: what to eat, when to see a doctor, whether or not to smoke. In order to stay healthy, individuals must know how to read the labels on food and medicine, locate the nearest health center, report symptoms to health professionals, understand insurance paperwork, and pay medical bills. These can be complicated tasks and the skills to achieve them are not explicitly taught by the health care system or other educational and social institutions.

Addressing health literacy will require coordinated efforts across multiple sectors and partners but is an important component to population health management and engaging patients in patient-centered care and self-management of many chronic conditions and disease prevention.

In recognition of National Health Literacy Month, the Center for Health Care Strategies is releasing a new series of [Health Literacy Fact Sheets](#), made possible through support from *Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit*.

Low health literacy impacts an estimated 90 million Americans, including a disproportionate number of individuals eligible for Medicaid. Through all its impacts -- medical errors, increased illness and disability, loss of wages, and compromised public health -- low health literacy is estimated to cost the U.S. economy up to \$236 billion every year.

This new [series of fact sheets](#) was created to help clinicians, patient advocates, and other stakeholders improve care for individuals with low health literacy. The fact sheets define health literacy; describe ways to

(Cont'd from page 2)

identify low health literacy; provide strategies to improve print and oral communication for patients with low literacy; provide information about the intersection of health literacy and culture; and highlight key policies relating to health literacy.

### In the Spotlight - KDHE Meets with “Wildcat” Preparedness Region

*by the Office of Communications, KDHE*



On Nov. 1, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) welcomed members of the Wildcat public health preparedness region to Curtis State Office Building. Robert Moser, MD, Secretary, KDHE, as well as Bureau and program directors from the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Information, Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention, Bureau of Family Health, Bureau of Environmental

Field Services, Kansas Health and Environment Laboratories, Bureau of Community Health Systems and Bureau of Environmental Health, enjoyed the meeting with local health partners from that region, which is made up of health departments in Geary, Pottawatomie and Riley counties as well as the Army's Fort Riley. Discussion topics included: the Kansas health improvement plan, the Fetal Infant Mortality Review program, blood lead surveillance case investigation, Flint Hills pasture burning, health department accreditation, disease tracking and threats, maternal child health efforts, blue-green algae, West Nile Virus and vector surveillance, and the various wellness programs in our state.

The visitors from the Wildcat region also visited the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories.

“We’re thankful for the time that our local health department administrators and Col. Paul Benne, chief of public health at Fort Riley, spent with us to share updates and lessons learned on a variety of public health programs and initiatives. This gave us all an opportunity to ensure that our activities were aligned to bring the best value to our respective activities and to the health of all Kansans,” said State Epidemiologist Charlie Hunt.



### 3rd Annual National Rural Health Day

*by Ashley Muninger, Rural Health Coordinator  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



National Rural Health Day, Nov. 21, is an opportunity to “Celebrate the Power of Rural” by honoring rural communities, bringing awareness to the unique health care challenges that rural areas face and showcasing the efforts of rural

health providers and others in meeting those challenges.

Be sure to check-out the [Resources](#) section of the [National Rural Health Day website](#) for materials designed to help your celebration be successful.

Here are some ideas on how rural health providers can celebrate:

- Plan/host a community health fair
- Give tours of your facility
- Share your story with partners and local media
- Speak at a community event
- Wear National Rural Health Day t-shirts or stickers
- Have a “staff appreciation” luncheon
- Write a letter to the editor
- Link to the National Rural Health Day website from your website
- Partner with a local school for rural health-related activities
- Use social media to spread your message

Let us know what activities you are planning on or near Nov. 21 by contacting the State Office of Rural Health at [ruralhealth@kdheks.gov](mailto:ruralhealth@kdheks.gov).

## KDHE to Launch New Laboratory Information Management System in December



*by the Office of Communications and  
Kansas Health Environmental Laboratories, KDHE*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL) will launch, on Dec. 2, a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), called Horizon, to track and report the results of submitted laboratory specimens. This is a major undertaking that will provide the laboratory with a more robust data system as well as opportunities to improve communication with partners and clients throughout the state.

Along with the LIMS implementation, KHEL has changed the look of the test submission forms for a more streamlined approach for ordering analysis. Also improved is the format of the result reports. The new reports will in some cases, contain additional results not captured in the past because of limitations with the old information system. Over the next several months KHEL will begin rolling out electronic submission and reporting options with an online portal that is part of the new system. These enhancements will greatly improve the laboratory's ability to report out public health information in a timely manner that is not dependent on mail or staffing.

There are two opportunities to participate in training on the New Universal Sample Submission Form by attending:

- A 40 minute Go to Webinar session with Laura Ross, State Training Coordinator, KDHE Laboratories. Registration through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, [KHEL: New Universal Sample Submission Form Overview \(1046843\)](#), or
- A 30 minute online KS-TRAIN course, [KHEL: New Universal Sample Submission Form Overview-ONLINE \(1047090\)](#).

KHEL is excited for the opportunity to improve laboratory services and increase efficiencies. For updates on the Horizon implementation, access to training or general information, please refer to KHEL by clicking on the KDHE logo.

### Cristi Cain Joins Local Public Health Program



*by Jane Shirley, Director,  
Center for Population Health and Local Public Health Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is very pleased to welcome Cristi Cain to the Local Public Health Program. Cristi recently served as a Project Coordinator with the University of Kansas (KU) Center for Public Partnerships and Research where she has worked closely with a number of public health initiatives promoting children's health. She is a graduate of Kansas State University with degrees in Psychology and Criminal Justice and is currently completing her Master's in Public Health at KU.

You may reach her by email at [ccain@kdheks.gov](mailto:ccain@kdheks.gov) or by phone at 785-296-3641.

### Bodyk Joins BDCP as Immunization Program Section Chief



*by the Office of Communications, KDHE*

Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention (BDCP) is pleased to welcome Peter "Pete" Bodyk as the leader of the Kansas Immunization Program. Pete joins BDCP at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) having worked at the Department of Transportation as their Traffic Safety Manager for over nine years. Pete was responsible for developing programs and projects designed to increase safety on Kansas roads and reduce death and injury in motor vehicle crashes, which decreased by 20 percent during his time as manager. Please join BDCP in welcoming Pete to public health in Kansas.

You may reach him by email at [pbodyk@kdheks.gov](mailto:pbodyk@kdheks.gov) or by phone at 785-296-0687.

## West Nile Virus Update



by Charles Hunt, State Epidemiologist,  
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE

This has been the second year in a row for high [West Nile Virus](#) (WNV) case counts. As of Oct. 26, there were 62 cases reported in 29 counties for 2013. Cases by date of onset peaked the week ending Sept. 14. In 2012, 57 cases were reported, which was the highest number since first being identified in Kansas in 2002. Four deaths caused by WNV have been confirmed and reported to the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) (KDHE) in 2013. There has been media interest and reporting on the WNV cases and it is important to understand that there is an inherent lag time in case reporting and updated KDHE statistics and in particular for deaths. In general, KDHE will not publish information regarding deaths until a death certificate is filed with cause of death confirmed. KDHE will generally not release information on deaths for rare conditions by county because of confidentiality concerns; releasing information by region may be possible depending on numbers of counties with cases.

## Rural Health Network Development Announcement Delayed



by Ashley Muninger, Rural Health Coordinator  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

Due to the government shutdown, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy has made the following changes to the Rural Health Network Development Federal Opportunity Announcement, HRSA-14-044:

The due date for applications under this funding opportunity announcement is now on: Dec. 6 at 10:59 p.m.

A Technical Assistance call on Oct. 31 will be recorded and available for playback until Dec. 1. To hear the recorded call, dial 866-463-4105, Passcode, 5246. The purpose of the call is to go over the grant guidance and provide any additional information that may be necessary regarding the application process.

This information will be updated in the funding opportunity announcement and an email notification will go out with these changes to everyone who has downloaded the application on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

If you have any questions, contact Leticia Manning, [lmanning@hrsa.gov](mailto:lmanning@hrsa.gov) or 301-443-8335.

## Become a Member of a Healthcare Coalition to Improve Your Communities Preparedness

Emily Nickel, Planning & Volunteer Coordinator, Preparedness Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



A healthcare coalition is a network of key representatives from public and private health and safety organizations that help communities prepare, respond and recover from events impacting Kansas. The activities undertaken by a coalition include but are not limited to planning, organizing, equipping, training, exercising, evaluating and networking.

Benefits of coalition participation:

- Develop relationships with partners.
- Participate in coordinated regional trainings and exercises that test organizational and regional capabilities.
- Receive additional resources and/or support.
- Expand regional planning and agreements.
- Bridge the gaps between public and private partners.
- Improve communication and/or information sharing by participating in meetings.
- Assist in building community resilience.
- Access to situational awareness.
- Access to communication systems.
- Participate and/or develop educational opportunities.
- Share best practices and lessons learned.

There are seven healthcare coalitions in Kansas. Click on the Health Care Coalition logo for contact information on your area health care coalition coordinator.

## Department for Children and Families Launches Digital Signage Project

*by the Office of Communication, KDHE*



The Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) has launched a new digital signage project. DCF will now have television monitors in all 38 service centers across Kansas. The purpose behind the project is to promote employment opportunities, public service announcements and family-friendly events. If you have any posters, videos or announcements that you would like DCF to share, please forward them to DCF's Director of Communications, Theresa Freed at [theresa.freed@dcf.ks.gov](mailto:theresa.freed@dcf.ks.gov). The monitors are placed in the DCF service center lobbies where hundreds of clients come through every day. Clients visit the service centers for a wide range of reasons, including applying for welfare benefits, checking the status of their applications, learning about adult and child protection services, finding out about employment opportunities and more. The content in the monitors is tailored to each service center location. DCF reserves the right to exclude any messages for any reason. The content will be updated every Monday.

## Galena Sinkhole Catastrophe Averted

*by the Bureau of Environmental Remediation, KDHE*



In October the staff of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Surface Mining Section (SMS) in Frontenac were notified of a lead and zinc mine collapse that had occurred on the grounds of the Galena School District Complex located on East 8th Street in the City of Galena. The site was located in the "ropes course", an area of cables and poles used to teach cognitive skills and spatial interpretation to students by using rope climbing and rappelling techniques, as well as using their problem solving abilities. The course is used by over 250 students each week.

An abandoned, improperly filled, lead and zinc mine shaft had suddenly opened up after the last class of the day finished using the area. A cable used by the students crossed directly over the open hole. The opening measured ten feet in diameter with a depth of 65 feet to the top of the water in the debris filled shaft. The debris field floating on the water made it impossible to determine the total depth of the vertical opening (VO). The VO was unstable and in danger of further collapse. The City of Galena posted a police officer at the site through the night to keep onlookers from getting too close to the open hole.

SMS staff arrived at the scene and met with city officials at the site to assist and advise in the remediation of the problem. The contractor used to remediate hazards associated with Lead and Zinc VO's was contacted and mobilized their equipment to the Galena site. The entire remediation operation was completed within 30 hours at a total cost of \$6,276.

## Healthcare Marketplace Support Provided by insureks.org

*from the Kansas Insurance Department website*



Are you or a client interested in finding more information about the Healthcare Marketplace or having someone help assist you in applying? The [Kansas Insurance Department](http://insureks.org) has created a website to answer questions about the basics of the Marketplace. A new insureKS.org service helps you find someone nearby to assist you with the Marketplace. Licensed insurance agents can assist you with the application and selection of a plan both on and off the Marketplace and also continue to assist with claims issues, billing issues, provider issues and general customer service. They can only sell you insurance from companies with which they have entered into agreements. And to sell on the Marketplace they must complete Marketplace training and pass a test. Navigators can help consumers prepare applications to establish eligibility and enroll in coverage through the Marketplace and potentially qualify for other programs like KanCare. They cannot sell or recommend that you buy a particular plan. To find someone in your area who is serving as an insurance navigator or certified application specialists, click the insureKS.org logo above.

## Office of Communications Launches the Dispatch

*by the Office of Communications, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Communications recently launched the Dispatch, a video series, posted to YouTube, which spotlights programs in the agency.

To view recent episodes click the links below:

- [Child Care Licensing](#)
- [Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy](#)
- [Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics Vital Statistics](#)
- [Kansas Brownfields Program](#)

## Statistical Products Available from KDHE

### KANSAS HEALTH Matters

by Greg Crawford, Director, Vital Statistics Data Analysis  
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE

The Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics (BEPHI) has issued a number of new statistical products. To view the 2012 [Annual Summary of Vital Statistics](#), click the document link. Concurrent with the posting of the Annual Summary, BEPHI updated [Kansas Information for Communities](#) (KIC). The new 2012 information is being included in the Kansas Health Matters website. Click the logo to access KIC information.

The BEPHI has also continued to prepare a multi-tab spreadsheet of county level vital statistics results. Information from the Excel spreadsheet can be extracted for use by counties in other reports. The information is available at the [KIC FastStats](#) site.

The BEPHI has also published online new data briefs using 2012 data on [Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Prematurity](#). Data briefs provide a summary on the latest trends for closely watched birth and death indicators.

The bureau released [Healthcare-Associated Infections in Kansas](#), 2011, a statewide report on two of the most costly and preventable types of complications that can occur to people receiving medical care.

## Kansas Special Health Care Needs and CPRF Hold Outreach Clinics



by Heather Smith, Director for Special Health Services Section  
Bureau of Family Health, KDHE

The Kansas Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) program is partnering with the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation (CPRF) to hold outreach seating clinics in Garden City, Hays and Salina. These include both consultation and evaluation appointments for children and youth in need of seating supports and services.

Please note the various dates and opportunities available in your community and share with consumers in your area. Individuals may contact David Sierra at the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation at 316-651-5211 for an appointment. Questions can be directed to CPRF or to the SHCN Program at 1-800-332-6262.

Salina - OCK, Inc., 1710 W. Schilling Road

- Nov. 27, 2013 - Evaluation Day

Hays - LINK, Inc., 2401 E 13th Street

- Jan. 22, 2014 - Consultation Day
- Feb. 26, 2014 - Evaluation Day

Garden City - Southwest Development Services, Inc., 1808 Palace Drive, Suite C

- March 26, 2014 - Consultation Day
- April 23, 2014 - Evaluation Day

## Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

## NACCHO Announces Funding Opportunity for Local Health Departments - Deadline Nov. 13



from the NACCHO website

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are excited to announce an upcoming funding opportunity for local health departments. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office for State, Tribal, Local, & Territorial Support, NACCHO will be offering a third year of Accreditation Support Initiative (ASI) awards. These awards are intended to stimulate quality improvement and promote the readiness of health departments to seek voluntary national accreditation through the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) (PHAB). Potential project activities include efforts to meet the identified PHAB prerequisites, achievement of PHAB standards and measures and offsetting accreditation fees. In addition to monetary support, selected sites will receive technical assistance from experts in the field. For information about last year's ASI-funded sites, click the NACCHO logo.

Application requirements and full details about the ASI opportunity are provided in the [Request for Applications \(RFA\) and the application reference document](#). Applications, via the online submission form, are due Wednesday, Nov. 13. NACCHO also recommends you view its [standard contract language](#) because it cannot be modified if an award is received.

Questions about this upcoming opportunity can be directed to [accredsupport@naccho.org](mailto:accredsupport@naccho.org). Make sure you are subscribed to *accreditNATION* to receive the full RFA when it becomes available.

### Project Orange Thumb Grant - Deadline Dec. 31



As a leader in the lawn and garden industry, Fiskars believes in contributing to the growing community garden effort and all it represents - creative expression, beautiful outdoor spaces, civic and community collaboration, healthy hand-grown food and sustainable living. To help support the community garden movement, Fiskars created Project Orange Thumb. Since its inception, Fiskars' Project Orange Thumb has provided over \$1.3 million to 140 community groups and helped to complete fourteen garden makeovers in the U.S. and Canada. To contact Fiskars' for specific information and to apply for this funding opportunity, click their logo.

### HealthierUS School Challenge Training Mini-Grants

*from the Kansas State Department of Education Child Nutrition and Wellness Newsletter*



The Kansas Health Foundation and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Child Nutrition & Wellness Program are providing the opportunity for 50 schools to receive \$2,000 in training mini-grants to act as an incentive to apply for the HealthierUS School Challenge (HUSC) and to help provide training to staff. Schools who choose to apply for the training mini-grant will commit to working towards applying for the HUSC or advancing towards the next award level if already a recognized HUSC award winning school over the next two school years. Using these funds schools can provide training opportunities to applicable staff (school foodservice, physical education teachers and staff involved in teaching nutrition education) that will assist the school in working towards meeting updated HUSC criteria. For more information, including the application, go to the School Nutrition Programs, [What's New page](#) on the KSDE website or click the [HealthierUS School Challenge Training Mini Grant](#) title link.

### Healthy Habits



MetLife Foundation supports projects to empower people to lead healthy, productive lives and strengthen communities. The Foundation makes grants in health, education, civic affairs and culture. Underlying the Foundation's programs is a focus on education at all ages and a commitment to increasing access and opportunity. The Healthy Habits program seeks to promote healthy habits and physical fitness for illness prevention; especially among children. Requests are accepted and reviewed throughout the year.

### National Institutes of Health Grants

#### Developing Healthy Behaviors in Children and Adolescents - Ongoing



The Healthy Habits Small Grant Program funds research that identifies mechanisms of influence and/or promotes positive sustainable health behaviors in children and youth. Positive health behaviors may include practicing proper dental hygiene, eating a balanced diet and engaging in physical activity. Applications to promote these behaviors should target social and cultural factors such as schools, families and communities.

Awards of up to \$50,000 a year for two years will be available. Eligible organizations include public and private institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, government agencies and faith-based or community-based organization. Contact the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for more information and to apply for funding by clicking the NIH logo.

#### Chronic Illness Self-Management in Children and Adolescents - Deadline Varies



The Chronic Illness Self-Management in Children and Adolescents grant program funds research to improve self-management and quality of life in children and adolescents, ages eight to 21, with chronic illnesses. Research related to sociocultural, environmental and behavioral mechanisms that contribute to successful and ongoing self-management of chronic illnesses in children is encouraged.

Awards of up to \$50,000 a year, for two years, are available. Eligible organizations include public and private institutions of higher education, nonprofits, for-profit organizations, government agencies at all levels and faith-based or community-based organizations. Click the NIH logo to learn more.

### Do Something Grants



American Express and dosomething.org provides grants of \$250-500 to spearhead national campaigns so 13 to 25 year-olds can make an impact. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. To learn more click the Do Something logo.

# Training Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

## EpiTrax for Elevated Blood Lead Investigators - Webinar - Nov. 12



by Farah S. Ahmed, Environmental Health Officer,  
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE

The Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics will be hosting an EpiTrax surveillance system training webinar for elevated blood lead investigators on Tues., Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m. This training focuses specifically on accessing blood lead data in EpiTrax. Details about the webinar will be sent via email to the list of elevated blood lead investigators identified by local health departments. If you have any questions about the upcoming training, or would like to confirm that you are on the list of persons needing access to blood lead data in EpiTrax, contact Farah Ahmed at [fahmed@kdheks.gov](mailto:fahmed@kdheks.gov).

## Real World Approach to Plan Health Promotion Programs - Webinar - Nov. 12



The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) presents Ninfa Pena-Purcell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, in Planning for Success: Using a Real World Approach to Plan Health Promotion Programs. This webinar is designed to equip participants with the tools to select a theory or model to assess community needs, identify community stakeholders and engage priority populations. The webinar will be held on Nov. 12, 3-4:00 p.m. To register click the SOPHE logo.

## How to use The Community Guide - Webinar - Nov. 14



from the Public Health Foundation website

The [Guide to Community Preventive Services \(The Community Guide\)](#) is a resource that informs of best practices and helps users organize activities to help improve the health of their population.

Public Health Foundation and the Association for Community Health Improvement are co-sponsoring a free webinar on Nov. 14 at 1 p.m., click The Community Guide logo. They will share how community partners have implemented evidence-based community health interventions from The Community Guide to improve health outcomes. [Register today to attend.](#)



## NACCHO Model Practice Lunch and Learn Webinars



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Lunch and Learn Webinars are short, 45 minute presentations that are an opportunity for NACCHO members to learn about and discuss programs with Model Practice Winners. These innovative and inspiring sessions will provide you with practical methods to replicability, teach you how to adopt innovative ways to get you the results you need with time-saving techniques. Each session will include a question and answer segment and slides be shared with participants only. To learn more about upcoming topics, click the NACCHO logo.

## NICHD SIDS Risk-Reduction Curriculum for Nurses



The National Institutes of Child Health and Human development (NICHD) is providing a free program that provides nurses with the most current and accurate information to communicate risk factors and answer parents' questions about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Nurses who successfully complete the course will earn 1.1 contact hours of continuing education credit. To learn more click on the NICHD logo.

## KS-TRAIN Featured Courses for November



by the Local Public Health Program,  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

During recent Regional Public Health Meetings it was discussed that local public health staff and school nurses require additional education resources to better understand the obesity disease process and the critical needs of children and families in reversing and/or preventing this growing epidemic. KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> has several courses that would meet your educational needs. See below list of education offerings. To search for other courses just add a key word or words to the Keyword or Course ID field on the top right hand side of the TRAIN homepage.

Healthy Habits, Modules 1-4 were developed by the Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in collaboration with the University of Kansas. All four modules have continuing nursing education credit through Dec. 2014.

- [Healthy Habits, Module 1: Obesity in Kansas Children, A Growing Epidemic \(1015996\)](#), describes the national and statewide prevalence and economic impact of childhood obesity, provides tools on how to calculate overweight and obesity in children from toddlers to teens and how to ask evidence-based nutrition and physical activity questions when taking a history.
- [Healthy Habits, Module 2: "Negotiating Behavior - the Road to Long-Term Change" \(1016561\)](#), outlines the role of patient-centered communication and treatment in prevention of childhood obesity and how to conduct a visit using motivational interviewing techniques.
- [Healthy Habits, Module 3: 2007 Expert Committee Recommendations on the Assessment & Treatment of Child and Adolescent Overweight and Obesity \(1016562\)](#), demonstrates a physical assessment of overweight and obese children and adolescents, the use of Body Mass Index (BMI) in diagnosis & discussions with care givers, the evaluation of co-morbidities, staged treatment for the primary care office and coding strategies for reimbursement.
- The final module, [Healthy Habits, Module 4: Preventing Childhood Obesity: Your Role as a Pediatric Provider \(1016563\)](#), describes key nutrition, physical activity and behavioral topics to discuss with parents at each well child visit, lists the school influences on children's weight and how to interview families in a culturally informed manner.

[Childhood Obesity: Getting Started for Better Outcomes \(1014545\)](#), provides learners with a foundation in performance management and Quality Improvement (QI) concepts, exercises to learn public health applications and gives participants tools and confidence to get started using QI to benefit community health.

[Who's Leading the Leading Health Indicators: Nutrition, PA, & Obesity \(Archived May Webinar\) \(1034845\)](#)

This 45-minute session provides an overview of the fifth of [12 Leading Health Indicator \(LHI\) topics](#) released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The event also highlights organizations using evidence-based approaches to address one of the Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicator (LHI) topics.

## News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems



### Population Health and Preparedness State Wide Call

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a monthly Population Health and Preparedness Statewide. To view minutes from the monthly calls click the KDHE logo.

### CDC Children's Environmental Health

The environment affects children differently than adults. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides data and information about children's environmental health issues including asthma, lead poisoning, cancer, developmental disabilities and socioeconomic conditions. Click the CDC logo to learn more about children's environmental health.



### Health Communication Materials Database



Media/Material Clearinghouse (M/MC) is a leading international resource for health communications material with a database of health communication materials. The materials included pamphlets, posters, audiotapes, videos, training materials, job aids, electronic media and other media/materials designed to promote public health. Click the M/MC logo to learn more about this database.

### New Infographic Illustrates Public Health Impact - Wow



The American Public Health Association (APHA) recently published an infographic that illustrates how investments in public health and prevention funding can provide a major return on investment measured in both lives and money saved. To view this infographic click the APHA logo.

### CDC Surveillance Resource Center



The CDC Surveillance Resource Center provides members of the public health surveillance community organized, easy access to guidance developed by CDC and its partners for improving the practice of surveillance. Public health surveillance refers to the collection, analysis and use of data to target public health prevention. It is the foundation of public health practice. To view surveillance guidance documents click the image on the left.

### Clear Communication: A NIH Health Literacy Initiative



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clear Communication initiative that focuses on achieving two key objectives of health literacy: 1) Providing information in the form, and with the content, that is accessible to specific audiences based on cultural competence; and 2) Incorporating plain language approaches and new technologies. To learn more about this initiative click the NIH logo.

### ITU and WHO launch mHealth Initiative to Combat Noncommunicable Diseases



The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have launched a new partnership called the 'mHealth' Initiative to use mobile technology, in particular text messaging and apps, to help combat noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases and chronic respiratory diseases. To learn more click the WHO logo.

### Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans



The United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued, "Physical Activity Guideline for Americans." The guidelines provide information on the types and amounts of physical activity that offer substantial health benefits to Americans. Click the HHS logo to learn more.

### New Guide Helps State and Local Governments Incorporate Health in All Policies

A Guide for State and Local Governments



This guide offers practical strategies for improving the public's health by incorporating health considerations into decision-making across sectors and policy areas. Written by public health practitioners this guide was developed in collaboration with the American Public Health Association (APHA), the Public Health Institute and the California Department of Public Health. Health policies framework requires collaboration between various sectors to promote health, equity and sustainability and simultaneously advance other goals such as promoting job creation and economic stability, transportation access and mobility, a strong agricultural system and educational attainment. To learn more click on the Guide for State and Local Governments.

### Revisions are Underway to the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals



At its meeting in Sept., the Council on Linkages Between Academia and Public Health Practice (Council on Linkages) voted to begin revising the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals (Core Competencies). The Council on Linkages began [collecting feedback on the Core Competencies](#) from the public health community earlier this year and has received a variety of suggestions thus far. Based on this initial feedback, the [Council on Linkages](#) decided to proceed with minor revisions to the [Core Competencies](#) while continuing to collect input from public health professionals, governing bodies, volunteers, students and others. Find the latest information on the [Core Competencies revisions and opportunities](#) to get involved in the process.

*from the Public Health Foundation Website*

### Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic



The Trust for America's Health (TFAH) released a report, [Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic](#) which lists ten possible indicators of promising strategies to help curb prescription drug abuse. According to the report, New Mexico and Vermont scored the highest, while 28 states scored six or fewer out of the ten indicators. TFAH reports that prescription drugs account for most drug overdose deaths and that the number of drug overdose deaths has doubled in 29 states since 1999. The rates quadrupled in four of these states and tripled in ten more of these states.

The Public Health Management Corporation released new data on state-by-state laws and regulations on the use, release and reporting of personal health information for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and C, syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia and tuberculosis. The [Public Health Departments and State Patient Confidentiality Laws Map](#) is designed to help health departments effectively use existing laws protecting patient confidentiality to foster collaboration and integration among and within health departments in their efforts to increase positive health outcomes and prevent disease transmission. The new data provides information state and local health departments need to evaluate which state laws facilitate or create barriers for coordination of prevention efforts and care.

### Coverage to Aid Americans in Understanding the Health Insurance Marketplace



Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has recognized more than 900 Champions for Coverage nationwide. These organizations and businesses have volunteered to help Americans without affordable insurance learn more and get coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace, which give consumers a new way to shop and purchase affordable, high quality health coverage. In all states, there will be people trained and certified to help you understand your health coverage options and enroll in a plan. To learn more click the HHS logo.

### Smoking Linked to \$278 Billion in Losses for U.S. Employers



The Gallup Well-being website provides a report on workers who smoke which costs the U.S. economy an estimated \$278 billion annually in lost productivity due to absenteeism and extra healthcare costs. This figure is based on an analysis of the cost of extra missed workdays due to poor health, partial absenteeism due to smoke breaks and additional healthcare costs compared with workers who do not smoke. To learn more about the findings click the Gallup Well-being logo.

### Laboratory Medicine Best Practices: The Quest for Quality



The [Laboratory Medicine Best Practices \(LMBP™\)](#) initiative was launched in 2006 to establish an evidence-based process of identifying best practices for quality improvement in the laboratory. Two online tutorials are now available to help laboratory professionals better understand and apply the LMBP™ best practices. Both courses offer free continuing education.

[The A-6 Cycle: Review and Evaluation Methods for Quality Improvement](#) explains how LMBP™ uses the A-6 cycle methods to conduct systematic evidence reviews.

[Application of LMBP™ A-6 Methods for Laboratory Practitioners](#) provides planning steps for the design and implementation of quality improvement studies that may be used in A-6 cycle methods systematic evidence reviews.

### CDC's Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work Campaign



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Get Smart About Antibiotics Week will be held from Nov. 18 - 24. This event is an annual effort to coordinate the work of CDC's Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work campaign, state-based appropriate antibiotic use campaigns, non-profit partners and private sector partners during a one week observance of antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic use. To learn more click the Get Smart logo.

### Job Openings

#### Johnson County Health Department

The Johnson County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [ARNP – Women's/Men's Health Program Supervisor](#)



### Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

The Lawrence Douglas County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



### Lyon County Health Department

The Lyon County Health Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [LPN](#)
- [Registered Nurse](#)



### Saline County Health Department

The Saline County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Health Department Director](#)



### Sedgwick County Health Department

The Sedgwick County Health Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Registered Nurse - WIC](#)
- [Registered Dietician - WIC](#)



### Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[Health Homes Herald](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

[ZIPS Newsletter - Bureau of Family Health/Children and Families](#)

#### Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

Email Pat Behnke at [pbehnke@kdheks.gov](mailto:pbehnke@kdheks.gov)

Previous issues of Public Health Connections maybe found at

[http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public\\_health\\_connections.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm)

Send your public health news to

Pat Behnke at [pbehnke@kdheks.gov](mailto:pbehnke@kdheks.gov) or

Debbie Nickels at [dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov)